

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Teleconference: 442-242-3609 PIN: 883 789 392#

Video Conference: meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva

502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DNR 2 North Conf Room

Thursday, September 14, 2023

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting

Public participation begins at approximately 10:00am. If you are unable to attend the business meeting, comments regarding agenda items may be submitted for public record to Alicia Plathe at Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov or 502 East 9th St, Des Moines IA 50319 up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting.

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item) *9. 2023-2024 Deer Management Zone Hunt (Springbrook State Park) *10. Contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc. *11. Contract Amendment 2 with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc. *12. Contract Amendment 4 with Iowa State University *13. Timber Sale Contract with RJ Lumber, L.L.C. for Shimek State Forest *15. Public Land Management Projects (15.1-15.3)	Decision	Commission
2.	Oath of Office for New Commissioner		
3.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
4.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
5.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
6.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
7.	Budget Request	Decision	Jennifer Nelson
8.	Contract with Ducks Unlimited (Eagle Lake)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*9.	2023-2024 Deer Management Zone Hunt (Springbrook State Park)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*10.	Contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Decision	Todd Bishop
*11.	Contract Amendment 2 with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc.	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*12.	Contract Amendment 4 with Iowa State University	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*13.	Timber Sale Contract with RJ Lumber, L.L.C. for Shimek State Forest	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
14.	Contract with the City of Guttenberg, Guttenberg Boat Ramp	Decision	Joe Larscheid
*15.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
15.1	Chapter 18 Lease-Woodbury County-CF Industries Nitrogen, LLC- Lease 4-R	Decision	Travis Baker
15.2	Chapter 18 Lease-Tama County-Pamela Schulze-115-R	Decision	Travis Baker
15.3	Chapter 18 Lease-Fayette County-Lucila Marquette-133-N	Decision	Travis Baker
16.	Construction-Large Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
16.1	Wapsipinicon State Park, Culvert and Bridge Repair-Jones County	Decision	Travis Baker
16.2	Red Haw State Park, Design Guide Shelter-Lucas County	Decision	Travis Baker
16.3	Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area, Boat Access and Water Control Structure-Clinton County	Decision	Travis Baker
16.4	Lake Ahquabi State Park, Pond Outlet Replacement-Warren County	Decision	Travis Baker
17.	Contract with Black Hawk County Conservation Board (Casey Lake)	Decision	Travis Baker
18.	Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (Diamond Lake Park)	Decision	Travis Baker
14.	General Discussion		

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates

- Thursday, October 12, 2023, Wallace Building
- Thursday, November 9, 2023, Wallace Building

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/BoardsCommissions/NaturalResourceCommission.aspx>

Comments during the public participation period regarding proposed rules or notices of intended action are not included in the official comments for that rule package unless they are submitted as required in the Notice of Intended Action.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.

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**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

August 17, 2023

**Video Teleconference
and
Wallace State Office Building**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

DRAFT

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Lyon
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Kayla Lyon, Director

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Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Acting Chairperson Tom Prickett at 9:42am on August 17, 2023, via a combination of in-person and video/teleconference attendees. General Counsel Tamara McIntosh stated for the record that the requirements of Iowa Code section 21.8 were met for the NRC meeting to take place virtually due to the brevity of the agenda.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- Laura Foell (virtual)
- Uriah Hansen (virtual; 9:30am-11:19am)
- Tammi Kircher (virtual)
- Tom Prickett (virtual)
- KR Buck
- Marcus Branstad (virtual; 10:28am-11:00am)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the following agenda items:

- Public Land Management Projects (8.1-8.3)

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the July 13, 2023 NRC minutes as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

- Director Lyon provided updates regarding the DNR building and activities at the Iowa State Fair, including an overview of the DNR Family Night. Director Lyon thanked DNR staff for all their hard work they put into preparing for the 2023 Iowa State Fair.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS

- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth started his remarks by providing an update on the peregrine falcon draw this year, stating that we had fewer falconers than permits available. He also mentioned that the peregrine falcon permitting process will be reviewed and may change during the EO10 process.

- Mr. Hildreth turned it over to General Counsel Tamara McIntosh for a more detailed update on EO10. In her overview, General Counsel McIntosh noted that the retrospective analyses for this calendar year are complete and the DNR is proposing an overall 40% decrease in the page count of our rules. She provided other notable data regarding the decrease in regulatory language in the proposal as well as reduction in overall word count. In addition, Mrs. McIntosh discussed next steps in the EO10 process, including when NRC commissioners should anticipate seeing rules for their approval at upcoming commission meetings.
- Mr. Hildreth provided an overview of the management plan and permitting processes that are taking place to address the Eurasian Water Milfoil and Brittle Naiad in the Iowa Great Lakes.
- Mr. Hildreth shared an update to the deer harvest reporting requirements for the upcoming deer hunting seasons, which includes reporting the date of harvest and the antler main beam length.
- Mr. Hildreth highlighted the 2023 Federal Migratory Bird stamp contest that is scheduled to be held at Drake University in Des Moines.
- Mr. Hildreth also reported positive feedback regarding the 2023 August Roadside Survey, stating that he anticipates some of the highest pheasant counts in portions of the state that we have seen in recent years.
- Mr. Hildreth finalized his remarks by providing an update on the Safer Communities Act and recognizing Jenny Miller for her great assistance serving as interim Board Administrator for the NRC.

DONATIONS

Pete Hildreth requested Commission approval of donations received by the Department from the following individuals and organizations:

Dave Buford, Buford Dozing and Excavating	James and Gwen Pedrick
Musco Sports Lighting	R C Pedrick
Diane Crookham-Johnson	Kristi Meyers and Robert Meyers
Marilyn Umphrey	Karen Workman and Richard Workman
Ronald and Connie Robinson	L. Begley and V. Begley
Matthew and Judith Manning	Victoria Arnold
Bernadine Livesay Barker	Jon and Deborah Finney
Beverly Boecker	Margaret Kemmerer
Ralph Caves and Jessie Caves	Therese and Tim Fitzgibbons Foundation
Kathleen Humble	Lindsay Plewka
Marvin and Doris Strait	Anna Buckardt Thomas

Mr. Hildreth turned it over to Anna Buckardt Thomas with the DNR Wildlife Bureau to share a brief presentation on the Iowa Motus project.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS-WILDLIFE HABITAT PROMOTION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES PROGRAM GRANTS

Kelsey Fleming requested Commission approval of grant recommendations pursuant to 571 IAC Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grants for three different projects.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATE, INC

Sherry Arntzen requested Commission approval of a contract amendment with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associate, Inc. to provide the Department with construction drawings and specifications for bidding purposes and to support the Department through the bidding process for the rehabilitation of structures at the Fort Atkinson Historic District.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Marcus Branstad.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONSTRUCTION – LARGE PROJECTS

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to maintain the pavement in Stone State Park, Woodbury County. This project consists of approximately 4.3 miles of HMA pavement preservation and maintenance by patching and seal coating the asphalt roads and place approximately 242 tons of crushed rock surfacing on access roads. Mr. Baker explained that updates to the parking lot come from a different funding source than the road repairs. He also mentioned that the Department keeps track of all estimates and bids approved.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION-OTTER CREEK, FAYETTE COUNTY-MEDBERRY FARMS

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase an angler access conservation easement for the purpose of public fishing. Mr. Baker clarified that the public would be acquiring rights to the angler access only, and that the fee title for the property would be maintained in private ownership.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Acting Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Laura Foell-nay, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-absent, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION-PERKINS MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, PALO ALTO COUNTY-HERKE REVOCABLE TRUST

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located in Palo Alto County adjacent to the Perkins Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Public Comments--None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Acting Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Laura Foell-nay, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-absent, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION-FISH FARM MOUNDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, ALLAMAKEE COUNTY-VAN BROCKLIN

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase an easement for permanent access across a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent to the Fish Farm Mounds Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Acting Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Laura Foell-nay, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-absent, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION-BIG MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, BUTLER COUNTY-STEVEN AND DIANE WINKEY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located in Butler County adjacent to the Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck

The Acting Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Laura Foell-nay, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-absent, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION-TROUT RUN WMA, WINNESHIEK COUNTY-KELLY BACHELDER

Travis Baker requested Commission approval of a land exchange in Winneshiek County. Mr. Baker explained that the encroachment was discovered after a recent land survey.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Acting Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Laura Foell-aye, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-absent, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONSTRUCTION – THREE MILE LAKE, WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AND FISH HABITAT-UNION COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a project that includes shoreline stabilization, raising an in-lake silt basin dike, cleaning an existing sediment pond, and construction of two additional sediment basins. The project also includes improvements to fishing jetties and additional streambank stabilization.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONSTRUCTION – LITTLE SIOUX ACCESS, PARKING LOT-HARRISON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the relocation and construction of a new parking lot for access to the Little Sioux River at the Little Sioux Delta.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONSTRUCTION – MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK, WASTEWATER TREATMENT-JACKSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to replace two existing liners of the wastewater treatment facility’s discharge lagoon cells at Maquoketa Caves State Park. The project also includes removing excess sludge from the lagoons. Mr. Baker explained that the sludge that is removed from the lagoon will be land applied.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONSTRUCTION – DLS SHOOTING RANGE, RANGE RENOVATION-SCOTT COUNTY, IA

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for range renovations at the DLS Shooting Range. This project will remove the clubhouse, dilapidated storage sheds, and clear the ground of all skeet and trap facilities. Two existing storage buildings shall remain on site. New earthen berms, concrete sidewalls, and steel shooting structures will be constructed to accommodate pistol and rifle shooting. There will be a small storage garage built on site. A new gravel drive and parking lot will provide access, as well as new sidewalks throughout the range. Mr. Baker responded to questions on range usage and management.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SHIVE-HATTERY, ENGINEERING SERVICES

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a contract with Shive-Hattery for engineering services from a qualified consulting firm for the design and construction of a watermain and a sewer lift station with a forcemain that will connect the Beeds Lake State park and adjacent private subdivision to the city of Hampton. Work also includes demolition of the park’s existing wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Baker explained that the lowest bidder provided an incomplete proposal that wasn’t viable.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF CRESTON-MCKINLEY LAKE

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a contract with the City of Creston to hire an engineering consultant to design, permit, and lead bidding and construction oversight of the restoration project at McKinley Lake.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF GRINNELL-ARBOR LAKE AND LAKE NYANZA

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a contract with the City of Grinnell to retain a consultant to conduct a Diagnostic and Feasibility Study for the restoration of Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza. The study will include a lake and watershed water quality response model, BMP prioritization, conceptual in-lake restoration plan, and cost estimates to help project partners develop an actionable plan for improving both lakes. George Antoniou stated that the plan includes very typical phosphorus reduction goals and is set up for moderate to high success for achievability of these goals.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Acting Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Each Commissioner shared their summer activities. Commissioner Kircher made a special welcome to future Commissioner Laura Kudej who listened in during the August NRC meeting.

ADJOURN

The Chairperson adjourned the Natural Resource Commission meeting at 11:30 am on August 17, 2023.

ADJOURNED

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

Item #6

Donations

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following donations:

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Lake Wapello State Park	\$1,500.00	Funds toward a flag pole at the new park office at Lake Wapello State Park.	Donna Hawkins
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$165.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust fund in dedication of Gary Wilcox.	Jenny Mertes

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Item #7

Decision Item

FY 2025 Budget Request

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the Department's FY 2025 appropriations request. Guidance received from the Department of Management indicates that Executive Branch departments and agencies shall submit a status quo budget request for FY 2025. The budget is required by statute to be submitted to the Department of Management by October 1, 2023.

APPROPRIATION NAME	FY 24 Appropriation	FY 25 Department Request	Increase/ (Decrease)
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Department Operations	\$11,922,293	\$11,922,293	\$0
State Park Operations	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$1,510,000	\$1,510,000	\$0
Forestry Health Management	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
Total General Fund	\$14,932,293	\$14,932,293	\$0
<u>ENVIRONMENT FIRST</u>			
Resource Enhancement and Protection	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$0
Ambient Air Quality Monitoring	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$0
Water Quality Monitoring	\$2,955,000	\$2,955,000	\$0
GIS Data for Watershed Managers	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$0
Park Operations and Maintenance	\$6,235,000	\$6,235,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$0
Animal Feeding Operations	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000	\$0
Water Supply Appropriation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
Total Environment First Fund	\$24,005,000	\$24,005,000	\$0
<u>NON-GENERAL FUND</u>			
Fish and Wildlife Operations	\$49,752,093	\$49,752,093	\$0
Groundwater Fund	\$3,455,832	\$3,455,832	\$0
UST Administration Match	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0
UST Fund Technical Assistance	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0
Snowmobile Transfer to Fish and Wildlife	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Total Non-General Funds	\$53,707,925	\$53,707,925	\$0
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u>			
Lake Water Quality Improvements	\$9,600,000	\$9,600,000	\$0
Water Trails/Lowhead Dams	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0
Park Infrastructure Improvements	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0
Community Forestry Grant Program	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
Iowa State Fair Building Renovations	\$500,000	\$0	(\$500,000)
Honey Creek Resort	\$6,000,000	\$0	(\$6,000,000)
Total Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund	\$22,850,000	\$16,350,000	(\$6,500,000)
TOTAL DEPARTMENT REQUEST	\$115,495,218	\$108,995,218	(\$6,500,000)

Jennifer Nelson, Chief Financial Officer
September 14, 2023

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

Item #8

Contract with Ducks Unlimited Inc. (Eagle Lake)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), of Dexter Michigan.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$267,000

Dates: September 15, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Funding Source(s): Federal NAWCA Grant (\$75,000), Lake Restoration Program (\$195,000)

Contract Purpose: Eagle Lake is an 890 acre marsh in Hancock County. Eagle Lake was once at the center of a vast complex of emergent wetlands. The last whooping crane in Iowa, and the last nest found for nearly 60 years was in this wetland complex in 1894. The last trumpeter swan in Iowa's PPR prior to reintroduction was observed at or near Eagle Lake in 1883. Only a small portion of the marsh has consistent open water, so unlike many of Iowa's shallow lakes, Eagle Lake is a true marsh. Historically, the marsh covered over 1,700 acres; however, extensive drainage of all but the deepest portions prior to 1915 has reduced its size. Its watershed historically was nearly 7,000 acres (7.5:1 watershed to wetland area) but some of the extensive public drainage ditch infrastructure, mainly to the south and east, may have increased this area by crossing divides and certainly increased the contributing area of the watershed by facilitating drainage of small wetlands.

The current water control structure is deteriorating and needs to be upgraded in order to effectively manage water levels. This upgrade will improve water quality and aquatic habitat for the benefit of fish and wildlife populations as well as public recreational opportunities. This project will include upgrading the water control structure as well as the installation of a fish barrier.

For this contract, DU will complete project management and completion of the construction project. They will provide construction oversight and inspection services for:

- Construction of a new water control structure
- Construction of a fish barrier

DNR tasks include:

- Routine inspection of the construction site and keeping DU advised of any updates to the project's construction.
- Managing the site to provide habitat that is beneficial to migratory birds in conformance of NAWCA standards.

Selection Process Summary: Cooperative Agreement contracting is authorized under 11 IAC 117.5(5) and 118.7.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

*Item #9

2023-2024 Deer Management Zone Hunt

The Commission is requested to approve one additional Deer Management Zone Hunt for the upcoming season as required by 571 Iowa Administrative Code 105.3. This zone will be used for mentored hunts to engage first-time hunters.

2023-2024 DEER MANAGEMENT ZONES							
Zone Name	Zone #	Season Name	Season Number	Season Dates		License Quota	Any Deer
Springbrook State Park	51	Bow	3	10/1/2023	1/10/2024	20	

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 09/14/2023

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***Item #10**

Contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc., of St. Paul, MN.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$80,000

Dates: 10/1/2023 to 12/1/2024

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Contract Purpose: The DNR and Pheasant Forever (PF) have been in partnership since 2009 with the joint goal of improving and increasing wildlife habitat by supporting private landowners who are interested in habitat management on their property. By contracting with PF, local service to private landowners will be increased for the consultation of restoring, enhancing, or managing wildlife habitat. This will complement the outreach efforts of the DNR's regional and statewide private lands biologists.

For this contract, PF Farm Bill Biologists assigned by PF will work one-on-one with voluntary landowners interested in discussing and evaluating habitat improvements and potential funding sources the landowner may seek to perform the recommended improvements. Habitat improvements could include CRP, native seeding, prescribed burning, timber stand improvement, and non-CRP wetlands.

In collaboration with USDA, where PF biologists are staffed, PF biologists will identify and reach out to landowners to discuss Habitat Proposals. After discussions, PF will create a Proposal and provide it to a landowner as a customized conservation proposal to restore, enhance, or manage wildlife habitat on their property, and inform them of different options for improving wildlife habitat. During this contract period, PF is to complete one hundred Habitat Proposals.

Habitat Proposals are the stepping stones to Wildlife Plans. After reviewing a Proposal with a landowner, PF will prepare a Wildlife Plan. The plan is then provided to the landowner as a customized conservation plan for the implementation of wildlife habitat restoration, enhancement, or management on their property. Wildlife Plans inform landowners how to implement the wildlife habitat improvements that they wish to see developed on their property. During this contract period, PF is to complete fifty Wildlife Plans.

The number of Habitat and Wildlife Plans agreed upon are comparable to previous work. During the contract period, the DNR will evaluate the Habitat Proposals and Wildlife Plans for coordination with the Department's current tracking system of implemented strategies. The ultimate goal of this project is to increase or improve wildlife habitat in Iowa, which this service will provide.

Selection Process Summary: Non-governmental contracting with Pheasants Forever, Inc., is authorized under 11 IAC 117.5(5) and 118.7.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 09/14/2023

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***Item #11**

Contract Amendment 2 with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc, of St. Cloud, MN.

Amendment-2 Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$75,000

Amendment Dates: October 21, 2023 to October 20, 2024

Funding Source(s): Seedling sales

Amendment Purpose: The purpose of the amendment is to continue shipping services for delivering tree seedlings to customers. The State Forest Nursery ships over 1,000,000 trees to customers within and outside of Iowa. Shipping costs are passed onto the customer for payment.

Original Contract Purpose: The State Forest Nursery has used Spee Dee Delivery for approximately 17 years. They have provided quality service at a reasonable rate. Other major delivery services will not ship the bagged tree packages and/or are unable to meet the low cost Spee Dee Delivery can provide. Spee Dee Delivery also charges a flat rate per package versus needing to have staff weigh and measure every bag to determine a shipping cost for each package.

Original Selection Process: The Department solicited quotes from targeted small businesses and also published an Informal Request for Quotes on the Department of Administrative Services website. Criteria in the RFQ included the ability to ship the material as bagged by the Nursery.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$49,999; Timeframe: October 25, 2021 to October 24, 2022

Amendment-1 Terms: Amount: \$75,000; Timeframe: October 23, 2022 to October 22, 2023; Purpose: To extend the contract for the subsequent period.

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester, Forestry Section
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***Item #12**

Contract Amendment 4 with Iowa State University

Commission approval is requested for a contract amendment with Iowa State University (ISU), of Ames, Iowa.

Contract Amendment 4 Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$50,000.00

Dates: October 15, 2023 to October 15, 2024

Funding Source(s): General Fund (State Forest Nursery Sales)

Amendment 4 Purpose: The purpose of the Contract Amendment is to add money to the Original Contract to complete the Original Tasks for an additional year at the State Forest Nursery.

Original Contract Purpose: This contract creates a partnership that allowed ISU students to assist in forestry production aspects at the DNR's State Forest Nursery (SFN) and provides them with experiential learning opportunities. Through work experience, these students have the opportunity to assist with nearly all aspects of the nursery operation, from lifting and grading seedlings to storage and distribution. In addition, students learn to identify, collect, and plant seeds as well as performed seedling maintenance and care.

The SFN, over the years, has explored economical options to assist with the labor and skill needed to operate the nursery. In 2020, as a pilot, the SFN hired ISU students as seasonal workers to assist with nursery operations. The pilot was successful and cultivated student and University interest. This partnership has provided a stable labor resource for the nursery and created a work experience for the students. As part of the contract, ISU promotes and provides administration oversight for the students participating in the program. The DNR provides instruction for the work being performed and oversight and coordination for the approximately 400 man-hours per week anticipated for the assigned work. Tasks in this contract include:

- Collection, harvest and grading of tree seedling stock: ISU will assist with all aspects of tree seedling identification, harvest, collection and grading of seedling stock for storage, stratification and distribution.
- Propagation, planting, locating of seed sources, collection of tree seeds: ISU will conduct activities associated with collection of seed stock, propagation, location of rare species, development of methods for new tree species production, maintenance and production of seedlings.
- Collection of Data: ISU will collect and document data on seed collection, processing, propagation, distribution and methodologies for submission to Iowa DNR.

The DNR will utilize the information gathered and analyzed in this contract to improve processes for tree seedling production, harvest, collection, grading, and to evaluate efficacies of different methods and standards used in tree seedling propagation.

Selection Process Summary: Contracting with Iowa State University is authorized under 11 Iowa Administrative Code section 118.4.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$76,488.19.00; Timeframe: 10/12/2020 – 6/30/2021

Amendment 1 Terms: Amount \$43,502.66; Timeframe: 6/29/2021 – 10/15/2021

Amendment 2 Terms: Amount \$135,000.00; Timeframe: 10/15/2021-10/15/2022

Amendment 3 Terms: Amount \$50,000.00; Timeframe: 10/15/2022-10/15/2023

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***Item #13**

Timber Sale Contract with RJ Lumber, L.L.C. for Shimek State Forest

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with RJ Lumber, L.L.C. of Bonaparte, IA, for Shimek State Forest.

Contract Terms

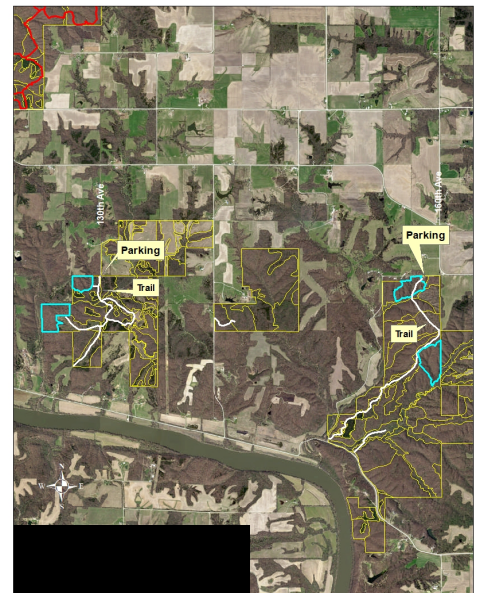
Income: \$246,980

Dates: 10/01/23 to 03/31/25

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

Contract Purpose: This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 239,620 board feet in 1,709 mixed hardwood trees at Shimek State Forest in Lee County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Shimek State Forest Management Plan to allow sunlight to stimulate the growth of oak seedlings already present on the site. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest area. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.

Wildlife den trees will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of the adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.



Selection Process Summary: An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 8/18/23

Number of Bids Received:5

Recommendation: RJ Lumber, L.L.C.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
RJ Lumber, L.L.C.	Drakesville, IA	\$ 246,980.00
Yoder Sawmill, LLC	Bonaparte, IA	\$ 202,000.00
Ben Bruggeman	Monticello, IA	\$157,000.00
Dan Jones Logging	Waterville, IA	\$132,530.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$ 65,000.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
September 14, 2023

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

Item #14

Contract with the City of Guttenberg, (Guttenberg Boat Ramp- R.M. 614.7, Mississippi River)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the City of Guttenberg, Iowa (City).

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$34,995.96 (Iowa DNR contribution) of total project cost \$49,200

Dates: September 15, 2023-November 30, 2023

Funding Source(s): Marine Fuel Tax (\$34,995.96), City of Guttenberg River Front Fund (\$14,204.04)

Contract Purpose: The Guttenberg City Boat ramp is a heavily used boat ramp located in Guttenberg. This three-lane ramp is one of only two public boat ramps and the only one accessing Pool 11 located within city limits. During busy summer months, the ramp is often overflowing with boat trailers, especially on holiday weekends. The last several years, the Mississippi River has been experiencing extreme low water conditions, causing boat trailers to drop off the ends of the ramps. Several complaints were received in the last month due to trailer/boat damage. Larger boats and pontoons are no longer able to use the ramp without risk of damages. The current low water levels are ideal for a contractor to get in and do the work.

The three lanes of the ramps are in need of 15 foot-wide by 5 foot extensions to lengthen the area of ramp in the water. The area below the end of the ramps will be temporarily dewatered, scour holes will be leveled and concrete poured in alignment with existing ramps. The extensions will be constructed to match the current ramp specifications. The added length will allow the ramps to remain open during annual low water periods and allow boaters to launch and load their boats without risk of injury or damage to property. Time is of the essence to complete this project before river levels rise and the area cannot be easily dewatered as planned.

For this contract, the City of Guttenberg will oversee the project and manage the contractor.

- Enter into an agreement with a contractor to complete the boat ramp extensions project. (The city has received a bid of \$49,200 for this project)
- Oversee contractor work in placing the water barrier and completion of the ramp extensions

DNR tasks include:

- Assist in permit application and oversight. The DNR will provide advice and assistance in meeting Army Corps of Engineers and DNR permit requirements as requested by the City.
- Construction oversight. DNR will provide Construction Engineering oversight as requested by the City.

Selection Process Summary: Cooperative Agreement contracting is authorized under 11 IAC 117.5(5) and 118.7

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

September 14, 2023

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (* indicates proposed consent item)

***Item #15**

Public Land Management Projects

15.1 Chapter 18 lease – Woodbury County – CF Industries Nitrogen, LLC – Lease 4-R

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 18 lease 4-R with CF Industries Nitrogen, LLC.

Location: The lease area consists of three separate sites described as:

Site A -A portion of the bed of the Mississippi River approximately 50 feet in frontage and approximately 616 feet in depth at river Mile 719.1 in Omadi Bend.

Site B – A Portion of the bed of the Missouri River Approximately 100 feet in frontage and approximately 300 feet in depth at River Mile 718.8 in Browsers Bend.

Site C – A portion of the bed of the Missouri River Approximately 100 feet in frontage and approximately 151 feet in depth at River Mile 718.7 in Browsers Bend.

All parcels are located in Woodbury County in Section 13 & 24, Township 87 North, Range 48 West of the 5th P.M.

Site Purpose: Sites A and C are used for water collection used directly in the manufacturing process and cooling of equipment which is essential to the operation of the facility. Site B is used for barge unloading.

Lease History: The location has been under a lease since 1982.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$3,337.50 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees. The term of the lease will be five years.

15.2 Chapter 18 lease – Tama County – Pamela Schulze -115-R

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 18 lease 115-R with Pamela Schulze.

Location: A portion of state-owned land approximately 50 feet in frontage and approximately 100 feet in depth parallel to the northwest line of Lot 67A, Block 3, Auditor's Plat of Section 33 and the E ½ of Section 32, Township 85 North, Range 16 West of the 5th P.M., Tama County, Iowa. This lease is on Union Grove State Park.

Site Purpose: The area has a portion of Pamela Schulze's garage and driveway encroaching on Union Grove State Park.

Lease History: The location has been under a lease since 2010.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$300.00 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees. The term of the lease will be five years.

15.3 Chapter 18 lease – Fayette County – Lucila Marquette- 133-N

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the new Chapter 18 Lease 133-N with Lucila Marquette.

Location: This lease is located in Volga State Recreation Area, east of the private residence at 19208 Imperial Road, West Union, IA in Section 31, Township 94, Range 8 West of the 5th P.M. with a frontage of 50 feet and a depth of 75 feet.

Site Purpose: The site is a leach field for the private residence located at 19208 Imperial Road, West Union IA

Lease History: This leach field was installed in 1983. The leach field was present when the state purchased the property in 2007. This encroachment was discovered through the sale of the house at 19208 Imperial Road.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$226.00 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees. The term of the lease will be five years.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

Item #16

Construction Item

16.1 Wapsipinicon State Park, Culvert and Bridge Repair – Jones County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Wapsipinicon State Park is located in Jones County, immediately south of Anamosa. The 400-acre park was acquired in 1921. Park amenities include a campground, reservable lodges, picnic shelters, river accesses, and a nine-hole golf course.



Wapsipinicon State Park has a historic bridge near Dutch Creek. This project will repair scouring at the bridge foundation with rock armoring and will repair the degraded mortar of the decorative stone abutments.



Engineering Project #: 18-06-53-04

Cost Estimate: \$74,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 100% - Parks and Institutional Funds

Bid Letting Date: 08/17/2023

Construction Completion Date: 12/22/2023

Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

Connolly Excavating Inc	Cascade, IA	\$95,880.00
Connolly Construction Inc	Peosta, IA	\$96,960.00
Boomerang Corp of Iowa	Anamosa, IA	\$141,730.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Connolly Excavating Inc.

16.2 Red Haw State Park, Design Guide Shelter – Lucas County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Red Haw State Park is located in south central Iowa near Chariton. This 649-acre park was first opened to the public in 1939. Amenities include a 70-acre lake, modern campground with electric sites, hiking trail, a beach, and a CCC stone picnic shelter.

This project is for the demolition of the concrete concession building at the beach and the construction of a new design-guide shelter in its place. Additionally, the concrete pads of two shelters that were damaged in the 2022 tornado will be removed.

Engineering Project #: 22-05-04-02



Cost Estimate: \$190,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 100% Executive Council

Bid Letting Date: 08/24/2023

Construction Completion Date: 05/17/2024

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Haworth Land Construction	Indianola, IA	\$201,760.00
Boyd Construction LLC	Leon, IA	\$370,179.00

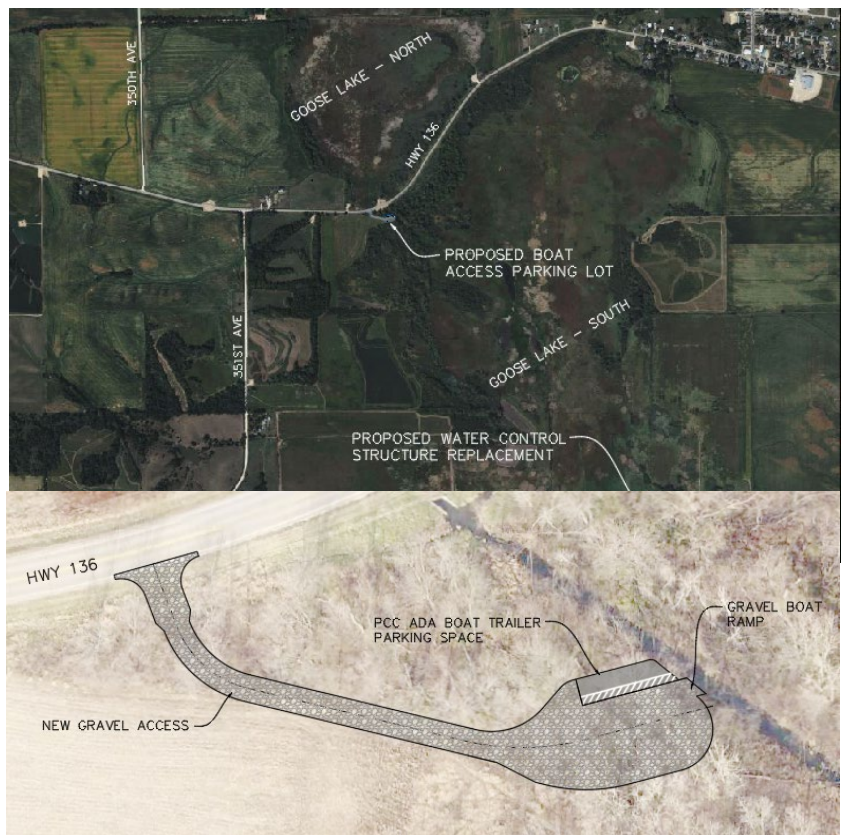
Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Haworth Land Construction.

16.3 Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area, Boat Access and Water Control Structure – Clinton County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: The Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area covers nearly 1,300 acres and consists of marsh, timber, and upland habitat. Game species in the area include deer, pheasant, waterfowl, dove, and rabbit. The WMA is located approximately one mile north of the town of Goose Lake.

The southern marsh water level is controlled by a deteriorated metal structure which is unable to maintain a water level sufficient for boats. There is also no boat access or ramp currently serving this marsh. This project will replace the water control structure and outlet pipe with a new concrete box structure and concrete pipe. This will allow staff to operate the pond at its designed water level. A new gravel access road, gravel parking lot and boat ramp will be constructed on the south side of the marsh. A paved ADA accessible boat parking area will also be constructed for access to the boat ramp.



Engineering Project #: 23-06-23-01

Cost Estimate: \$105,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: Marine Fuel Tax, 100%

Bid Letting Date: 08/24/2023

Construction Completion Date: 05/17/2024

Number of Bids Received: 11

Bidders

Offset Construction LLC	Farley, IA	\$88,031.80
Lahr Custom Excavating LLC	Ryan, IA	\$94,319.00
Ardo Schmidt Construction Inc	Preston, IA	\$115,309.75
Connolly Construction Inc	Peosta, IA	\$117,659.10
Connolly Excavating Inc	Cascade, IA	\$129,929.00

McClintock Trucking & Excavating	Silvis, IL	\$139,715.00
Five Cities Construction Co	Coal Valley, IL	\$146,150.00
Miller Trucking & Excavating Co	Silvis, IL	\$158,529.00
Ihrig Works LLC	Long Grove, IA	\$167,072.00
Tschiggfrie Excavating Co	Dubuque, IA	\$175,939.00
BWC, INC	Solon, IA	\$199,331.60

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Offset Construction LLC.

16.4 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Pond Outlet Replacement – Warren County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Ahquabi State Park was dedicated in 1936 and is approximately 770 acres in size, including the 115-acre lake. Existing facilities include a lakeshore campground with modern facilities, a beach with a CCC beach shelter, a privately-run beach concessionaire, a CCC lodge, an enclosed fishing pier, hiking trails, and two boat ramps.

A pond was built, in 1993, east of Lake Ahquabi State Park with the cooperation of the Warren County Conservation Board to function as a dredge containment site for the 1995 hydraulic dredging project as well as a long-term sediment trap. The existing 48-inch corrugated metal pipe spillway has deteriorated and will be replaced with 3/8” thick smooth metal pipe.



Engineering Project #: 23-05-91-01

Cost Estimate: \$74,000

Operating Bureau: Lake Restoration

Funding Source: 100% Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 08/24/2023

Construction Completion Date: 05/31/2024

Number of Bids Received: 7

Bidders

IA Builders Dirt Work, LLC	Albia, IA	\$92,766.00
Nagel Construction, LLC	Allerton, IA	\$94,820.00
RW Excavating Solutions, LC	Prairie City, IA	\$95,290.00
Haworth Land Construction	Indianola, IA	\$96,756.00
On Track Construction, LLC	Nevada, IA	\$114,946.00
Vanderpool Construction, Inc.	Indianola, IA	\$166,795.00
Herberger Construction Company, Inc.	Indianola, IA	\$198,341.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to IA Builders Dirt Work, LLC.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 September 14, 2023

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

Item #17

Contract with Black Hawk County Conservation Board (Casey Lake)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) of Waterloo, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$83,625.00

Dates: September 14, 2023 to June 30, 2026

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Casey Lake is a 39-acre lake in a 748-acre watershed, with most of the watershed located within the 723-acre Hickory Hills Park. The lake was constructed in 1970, coinciding with the overall development of the park. Hickory Hills Park provides recreational opportunities to the public including: camping, cabins, fishing, electric-only boating, hunting, scenic grass trails, animal exhibits, and shelters. The park is located in Tama County but is managed by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB).

Casey Lake is currently on the State of Iowa's impaired waters list for algae (high chlorophyll-a concentrations), which has been attributed to high phosphorus levels in the lake. The Iowa DNR's Watershed Improvement Section produced a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report in 2012 to identify sources of pollution to Casey Lake and suggested ways of improving water quality with the goal of removing the impairment at the Lake. The TMDL cited a high internal load (accounting for about 40% of the total phosphorus budget) in the lake that is likely contributing to water quality problems. Since the TMDL was published, BHCCB has worked to improve the watershed, adding four wetlands above the lake. In April 2019, Park staff completed a gully assessment in the park and several erosion issues were identified, which are contributing to siltation in the west end of the Lake. While many of the watershed issues have already been addressed, there remains an opportunity to improve existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to further reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to the lake. Additionally, in-lake work is needed to reduce internal loading and remove excess sediment from the western portions of the lake.

In 2021, DNR and the Black Hawk CCB hired Shive Hattery, Inc. to evaluate existing watershed BMPs within the park and develop a lake restoration plan for Casey Lake (total cost \$56,300; \$42,225 LRP, \$14,075 BHCCB). As a result of this assessment, project partners moved with design for watershed and in-lake restoration practices, culminating with permits and final design plans for construction (total cost \$379,100; 75% LRP; 25% BHCCB).

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to work with Black Hawk County Conservation Board to retain the consultant to provide engineering services for the restoration of Casey Lake. Engineering services for this agreement include construction oversight for the watershed and in-lake construction project, attending the pre-construction meeting and periodic progress update meetings, and providing construction staking, construction materials testing, surveys, and final as built plans.

Budget:

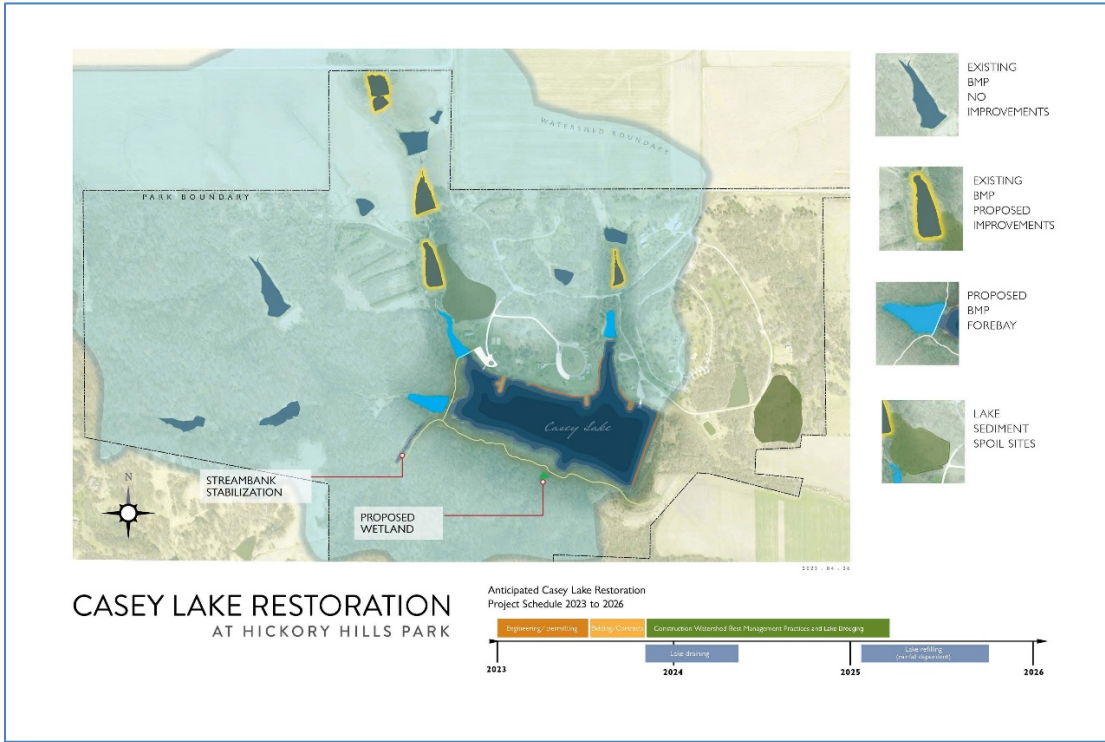
DNR Contribution (75%):	Not to exceed \$83,625.00
<u>BHCCB Contribution (25%):</u>	<u>Not to exceed \$27,875.00</u>
Total Cost:	Not to exceed \$111,500.00

Anticipated Future Work: Future work, planned for 2024 and 2025, will include construction of watershed BMPs and in-lake restoration strategies that are designed to improve water quality and recreational opportunities in Casey Lake. The BHCCB will continue to be cost share partners for the duration of the project. Total estimated cost for construction of all elements of the project is \$3 million and will include construction and renovation of ponds and wetlands within the park (see pictures on next page), targeted mechanical dredging of excess sediment from the lake, shoreline stabilization, installation of fish habitat structures and recreational jetties, phosphorus inactivation, and potential upgrades and repairs to the drawdown structure in the lake.

Selection Process Summary: This contract is authorized by 11 Iowa Administrative Code section 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 NRC Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

Proposed watershed practices:



Proposed In-Lake Restoration Activities:



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

Item #18

Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (Diamond Lake Park)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (PCCB), of Montezuma, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$78,000.00

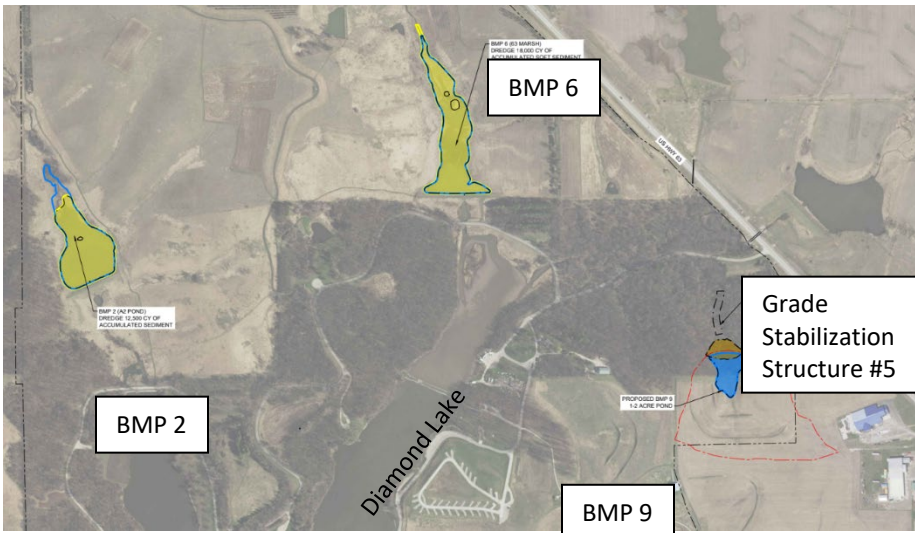
Dates: September 14, 2023, to September 30, 2024

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Constructed in the 1950s, Diamond Lake is a 99-acre lake with a 2,672 acre watershed, which is comprised of a mix of public and privately owned lands. The lake is located in Diamond Lake County Park and is managed by Poweshiek County Conservation. The watershed has a mix of forested land, crop land, and grassland. Water quality is considered average for the State of Iowa and the lake suffers periodically from algae blooms that lead to poor water clarity. The maximum depth of Diamond Lake is about 20' with the mean depth being 7.2' although the depths in the norther portion of the lake are fairly shallow and there has been some sediment deposition in the arms of the lake since it was constructed.

Both landowners within the watershed and the park staff have worked to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to the lake by installing a variety of best management practices on the landscape, but additional work is needed to better manage inputs to the lake. This project represents the first step in a comprehensive restoration project that is proposed for the lake and park. Additionally, a watershed coordinator is working with landowner and operators within the watershed to install additional BMPs on privately owned land. Diamond Lake is a significant public resource and it supports recreational activities that include boating and fishing. In addition, Diamond Lake serves the City of Montezuma as its drinking water source.

DNR worked with the CCB in 2015 to repair and modify the spillway at the lake outlet. The spillway was in need of repair, and upgrading the lakes infrastructure allowed project partners to modify the outlet structure to eliminate migration of undesirable fish species into the lake from downstream Moon Creek. Modification of the outlet was an important step in the long-term water quality improvement plan for Diamond Lake. The spillway modification was completed in 2015 for a total cost of \$160k, with the PCCB contributing \$32k to the project.



In 2022, DNR worked with the PCCB to hire an engineering firm to complete a watershed assessment and make recommendations for BMPs on public land within the watershed that would help improve water quality in the lake. The plan was completed in 2023, with a recommendation to move forward with the design and construction of several of the practices proposed, including the rehabilitation of two existing ponds,

construction of one new grade stabilization structure, and construction of one new pond.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with PCCB to retain a consultant to provide engineering services for the restoration of Diamond Lake Park. Engineering services provided for this project will include engineering design, construction plans and documents, geotechnical review, permits and public outreach for the construction and rehabilitation of five BMPs within the park to reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to the lake.

Budget:

DNR Contribution	\$ 78,000.00
<u>Poweshiek County Conservation Board Contribution</u>	<u>\$ 26,000.00</u>
Total budget	\$ 104,000.00

Anticipated Future Work: Future work will include construction of the watershed best management practices being designed as a part of this project. Additionally, long term project partners hope to complete restoration work within the lake. Total anticipated costs for construction of watershed practices within the park is around \$550k, with construction slated for 2024 and 2025. Additionally, the PCCB is pursuing timber stand improvement on woodlands throughout the part to remove invasive species and promote forest floor vegetation, which stabilizes soils and prevents erosion.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the PCCB is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 14, 2023